

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-09

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SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PARK VISITS ROK AND U.S. TROOPS

1. PRESIDENT PARK PAID DECEMBER 23 HOLIDAY VISIT TO ROK AND U.S. TROOPS IN POSITIONS NEAR DMZ. PRESIDENT, ACCOMPANIED ON TOUR BY PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARY GENERAL KIM CHONG-YOM, AND SUH, JCS CHAIRMAN RO, ROKA CHIEF OF STAFF LEE AND GENERAL STILWELL, RECEIVED BRIEFING FROM I COPRS (ROK-US) GROUP COMMANDER, LTG HOLLINGSWORTH, AND DISTRIBUTED CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO SOLDIERS DURING TOUR.

2. TEXT OF FORMAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO UN COMMAND FROM PRESIDENT PARK FOLLOWS: "DEAR OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORCES: WITH THE ADVENT OF ANOTHER CHRISTMAS, SO SYMBOLIC OF MAN'S ETERNAL ASPIRATION FOR PEACE ON EARTH AND GOODWILL TOWARD MEN, YOU ARE VERY MUCH IN OUR THOUGHTS AND I WISH TO EXTEND MY WARMEST PERSONAL GOOD WISHES AND THE SINCEREST GREETINGS OF MY PEOPLE TO ALL OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES. A FULL QUARTER-CENTURY HAS PASSED SINCE YOUR PREDECESSORS FIRST

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CAME TO KOREA AS CRUSADERS OF PEACE. HOWEVER, THE DANGER OF WAR

HAS NOT VANISHED FROM THIS COUNTRY. WHILE THE INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE OF THE PRINCE OF PEACE AND GOODWILL ECHOES THROUGH THE WORLD TODAY, IT IS TO BE REGRETTED DEEPLY THAT WE CANNOT SHARE THE JOY OF THIS DAY WITH OUR BRETHREN IN THE NORTH, WHO ARE STILL UNDER THE YOKE OF SLAVERY AND OPPRESSION. AS WE CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO PREVENT WAR AND PERPETUATE PEACE ON THIS TROUBLED PENINSULA, NUMEROUS OBSTACLES AND DIFFICULTIES LOOM MENACINGLY AHEAD. HOWEVER, WE WILL NEVER FALTER, BUT BEND EVERY EFFORT IN THIS DIRECTION. IN THIS LONG AND HARD CAMPAIGN, NOTHING ENCOURAGES US MORE GREATLY THAN THE CONTINUATION OF THE MISSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORCES THAT FOUGHT FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM IN KOREA AND THE SOLID MANIFESTATION OF FAITH THAT OUR ALLIES HOLD IN THESE PRINCIPLES. YOU CAN TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN YOUR SERVICE IN KOREA SINCE YOUR SACRIFICE IS FOR PEACE OF ALL MANKIND AND IS INSTILLING IN ALL THE FREE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD COURAGE AND CONFIDENCE AS THEY JOIN HANDS IN SEARCH OF A GENUINE PEACE. FOR THE PART OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE WHO FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SOLDIERS IN REPELLING THE AGGRESSORS, WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOUR SACRIFICE WITH A SENSE OF UNDIMINISHING GRATITUDE. ON THIS CHRISTMAS, WE DEDICATE OURSELVES ANEW TO THE CAUSE OF FREEING MANKIND FROM DISEASES, POVERTY AND WAR AND BRINGING ABOUT PEACEFUL UNIFICATION OF KOREA IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME. MAY THE JOY AND BLESSINGS OF THIS HOLIDAY BE WITH YOU AND YOUR DEAR ONES AND MAY THE COMING YEAR BRING EVERY HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS TO YOU ALL."

3. UNC OFFICERS FEEL TROOPS VERY FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY,
AND APPRECIATE OF, PRESIDENT'S HOLIDAY GESTURES.
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